Page 1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

EASTERN DIVISION

HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONFIDENTIALITY REVIEW

The videotaped deposition of EDWARD

BRATTON, called for examination, taken pursuant to the

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure of the United States

District Courts pertaining to the taking of

depositions, taken before JULIANA F. ZAJICEK, a

Registered Professional Reporter and a Certified

Shorthand Reporter, at Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar &

Scott, LLP, Suite 400, 54 West Hubbard Street,

Chicago, Illinois, on November 30, 2018, at 9:05 a.m.

REDACTED			





















REDACTED Page 48 1 You see in the first sentence, sir, that 2 it identifies "orders of controlled substances," 3 correct? 4 A. Correct. 5 Q. Do you have an understanding that -- that this section is referring to a system designed to б 7 identify suspicious orders as opposed to suspicious 8 shipments? 9 MR. HILL: Object to the form. 10 BY THE WITNESS: A. It -- it appears that way, yeah. 11 12 BY MR. MOUGEY: 13 Q. And if you look at the next sentence: 14 "The registrant shall inform the field 15 division office of the administration in his area of 16 suspicious orders when discovered by the registrant." 17 Do you see that, sir? 18 A. Yes. 19 Q. And "when discovered by the registrant," 20 do you have an understanding of what timeframe that 21 means? 22 MR. HILL: Objection to the form. 23 BY THE WITNESS: 24 A. I -- I don't know what they mean by Page 47 Page 49 "The registrant shall design and operate a 1 1 discovered. 2 system to disclose to the registrant suspicious orders 2 BY MR. MOUGEY: 3 3 of controlled substances." Q. Well, do you have an understanding or how 4 Did I read that first sentence right? 4 did you interpret that when -- what -- when discovered 5 5 A. Yes. means? 6 Q. Now, as an employee of Walgreens, do you 6 MR. HILL: Objection to form. 7 7 BY THE WITNESS: believe that Walgreens had a system designed to 8 identify suspicious orders of controlled substances? 8 A. I don't know. From the -- I don't know. 9 MR. HILL: Object to the form. 9 BY MR. MOUGEY: 10 BY THE WITNESS: 10 Q. The third sentence: A. At -- at what time? 11 "Suspicious orders include orders of 11 12 BY MR. MOUGEY: 12 unusual size, orders deviating substantially from a Q. From the time you began in pharmaceutical 13 normal pattern, and orders of unusual frequency." 13 Do you see that, sir? 14 integrity. 14 15 A. From the time I began, yes. 15 A. Yes. Q. All right. Do you believe that Walgreens 16 Q. Did I read that correctly? 16 17 17 had a system in place designed to identify suspicious A. Yes. orders of controlled substances prior to you starting 18 Q. And -- and do you understand that that is 18 at pharmaceutical -- or in pharmaceutical integrity? 19 Walgreens' responsibility to have a system to identify 19 20 MR. HILL: Ob- -- objection to the form. 20 orders deviating substantial from the normal pattern 21 21 BY THE WITNESS: and orders of unusual frequency, correct, sir? 22 22 MR. HILL: Objection to the form. A. I don't know. 23 BY MR. MOUGEY: 23 BY THE WITNESS: 24 24 Q. You don't know. A. I -- I don't know. I mean, I see that

Page 50 Page 52 that's what that says here. 1 Q. How often did you interact on a, say, a 1 2 BY MR. MOUGEY: 2 monthly basis with any lawyers at Walgreens regarding 3 Q. But no one has ever told you that's the 3 the details of the regulatory framework regarding to responsibility at -- of Walgreens during your tenure 4 the monitoring -- related to the monitoring of 4 5 at Walgreens? 5 controlled substances? 6 A. No. 6 MR. HILL: And Mr. -- Mr. Bratton, just don't 7 7 MR. HILL: Objection. disclose any of the actual communications. This is 8 8 just a question about timing and the numbers of Hold on one second. Sorry. I ask you not 9 communications. 9 to -- counsel you not to disclose any attorney client 10 privileged communication you might have had about that 10 BY THE WITNESS: 11 subject. 11 A. I -- I don't recall. At the time I BY THE WITNESS: 12 12 started I can tell you that we talked with them 13 A. So we -- we rely on our regulatory law 13 frequently on a variety of issues. I don't recall 14 group to guide us. You know, I'm not an attorney and 14 exactly on this one five years ago how often I spoke there is a variety of case law and regulations and 15 15 with them. 16 state and federal. So we rely on their guidance on 16 BY MR. MOUGEY: how to proceed as it relates to the patchwork of 17 Q. In that frequently on a variety of issues 17 regulations that we have to comply with. related to the details of the regulatory framework 18 18 19 BY MR. MOUGEY: 19 covering controlled -- monitoring of controlled 20 Q. Sure. 20 substances? And you relied on that regulatory law 21 A. Monitoring of controlled substances, 21 22 group about the details of the regulatory framework? 22 reporting of controlled substance loss, controlled 23 23 substance dispensing, et cetera. A. Correct. 24 24 Q. Now, on those details that you talked to Q. And so when you had a question about the Page 51 Page 53 the regulatory law group about, when you said details of the regulatory framework, you would contact 1 1 2 the regulatory law group. 2 frequently, is that twice a week, twice a day, just 3 Does that make sense? 3 generally? 4 MR. HILL: Objection to the form. 4 A. Twice a week, probably. 5 BY THE WITNESS: 5 Q. And that was more in the beginning when 6 A. Correct. б you started with pharmaceutical integrity? 7 7 BY MR. MOUGEY: A. I think it continues to this day. Maybe 8 8 Q. And so part of your training about the not on this topic as much. 9 details of this CFR we just went through, 1301.74, was 9 Q. So a couple times a week you would 10 training from the regulatory law group, correct? 10 interact with the regulatory law group about the 11 A. I don't know that I would -- training per 11 details of Walgreens' control monitoring system? 12 se, but as -- as I started in the role, I know that we 12 A. Or details or specific incidents that 13 were trying to report suspicious orders for RDCs. 13 might arise, et cetera. 14 Q. I understand. That's not what we are 14 Q. And -- and it's important for you as a 15 talking about right now. What we are talking about is 15 manager of the southern operation to have an your interaction with the regulatory law group and understanding of the regulatory framework covering 16 16 details about Section 1301.74. 17 17 Walgreens' responsibilities in relation to monitoring 18 Do you see that? of controlled substances, correct? 18 19 19 MR. HILL: Object to the form. A. Um-hum. 20 Q. So interpretations of what you mentioned 20 BY THE WITNESS: 21 21 of the -- I think you used the word "patchwork," case A. I -- I think for our group it was 22 law, regs, DEA interpretations, you would rely on the 22 important to execute the tasks and the -- the -- the 23 23 regulatory group for those details? programs we've been implement -- charged with. I 24 A. Correct. 24 don't know that I need to understand the law to

Page 54 Page 56 paragraph in your LinkedIn profile, correct? 1 understand what we needed to do. 1 2 BY MR. MOUGEY: 2 This is copied from my job posting. 3 Q. The question I asked you was a little 3 Yes, sir. So you put this in there, Q. 4 different. What I asked was: Is it important for you 4 right? 5 as a manager of the southern operation to have an 5 A. I copy and pasted, yes. You copied it. And it's accurate, 6 understanding of the regulatory framework covering 6 Q. 7 7 Walgreens' responsibilities in relation to monitoring correct? of Schedule II and Schedule III opiates? 8 8 A. I believe so. MR. HILL: Object to the form. 9 9 Q. So Bratton 1, your profile: "Responsible 10 BY THE WITNESS: 10 for managing, creating, and maintaining controlled A. I -- I don't know how to answer that 11 substance dispensing, monitoring and reporting 11 12 question. 12 programs." 13 BY MR. MOUGEY: 13 Is that accurate, sir? 14 14 Q. What's confusing to you about that A. Yes. 15 question? Is it important that you understand the 15 Q. And that was part of the scope of your 16 regulatory framework? 16 responsibilities from February '13 on? MR. HILL: Same objection. 17 17 A. Correct. 18 BY THE WITNESS: 18 Q. Second sentence: 19 19 A. I think I have a general concept, but I "Developed, recommends, implements 20 don't think I'm an expert on all of the issues at 20 programs, procedures and techniques which will every level of government, no. identify and minimize loss of company assets and 21 21 22 BY MR. MOUGEY: 22 ensure the safety, compliance and security of the 23 Q. Yeah, I don't -- I don't think I asked you 23 ordering and dispensing of controlled substances," about whether you were an expert at every level of 24 2.4 correct? Page 55 Page 57 1 government. What I asked was is it important as a 1 A. Correct. 2 manager of the southern operation for Walgreens in 2 Q. Now, when you say controlled substances 3 pharmaceutical integrity to understand, just in -- in this paragraph, that is a number of different 3 4 generally, the regulatory framework covering 4 types of drugs, correct? 5 Walgreens' responsibilities in relation to monitoring 5 A. Correct. 6 Schedule II and Schedule III opiates? 6 Q. And you understand that this litigation is 7 7 MR. HILL: Objection to the form. about Schedule II and Schedule III opiates, correct, 8 BY THE WITNESS: 8 sir? 9 A. I'm not sure. 9 A. Correct. 10 BY MR. MOUGEY: 10 Q. And you understand, sir, in your role as 11 Q. Has someone instructed you to -- to say 11 manager of the southern operation that those Schedule II and Schedule III opiates are highly 12 "I'm not sure" to questions about what Walgreens' 12 responsibilities were? 13 13 addictive, correct? A. No. 14 14 MR. HILL: Object to the form. 15 Q. Have you been told just to -- if -- if 15 BY THE WITNESS: anyone asks you about what Walgreens' responsibilities A. My understanding is they can be addictive 16 16 for some people. were, just to say I'm not sure? 17 17 18 A. I'm trying to answer truthfully. BY MR. MOUGEY: 18 19 Well, let's go back to Bratton 1, okay. 19 Q. Yes, sir, they can be addictive to some 20 Manager of pharmaceutical integrity, 20 people. southern operation, February 2013 to the present, 21 21 And did you understand in February 22 right? 22 of 2013, that the country was in the midst of an 23 A. Um-hum. 23 opiate crisis? Okay. Now, you -- you put this next 24 24 MR. HILL: Object to the form.

Page 58 Page 60 BY MR. MOUGEY: 1 BY THE WITNESS: 1 2 2 A. I believe that I was becoming aware of it, Q. You don't recall. You don't recall 3 3 walking in the first month of my job and somebody yes. BY MR. MOUGEY: 4 saying, We are in the middle of an opiate crisis, 4 5 Q. And how did you become aware of that in 5 people are dying every day, Florida is the hot bed, 6 6 February of 2013? you are in charge of the southern operation, there is 7 7 A. Partially through my -- my work, drugs migrating up to Ohio, and it is our job as partially, you know, you -- the news and things you 8 8 distributors to monitor and identify controlled 9 see on television. 9 substances? 10 Q. Well, let's talk about the partially 10 Anything along those lines? 11 because of your work. 11 MR. HILL: Objection to the form. 12 How at work did you become aware that in 12 BY THE WITNESS: 13 13 2013 the country was in the middle of an opiate A. I don't recall. 14 14 BY MR. MOUGEY: crisis? 15 A. I don't recall the specific details. I 15 Q. Anything saying this is -- this is very, 16 know that we -- it was something that was, you know, 16 very, very important that we are on the front line of in our minds as we were drafting our policies and defense for Walgreens and we dispense as -- as many --17 17 or more opiates than anyone in the country? 18 procedures. 18 19 19 Q. It was in your mind. A. I don't recall. 20 Help -- help me to understand how it got 20 Q. You don't recall any meetings with a sense 21 of urgency like that? 21 in your mind? 22 A. Direction from my boss --22 A. I -- when I first was in the role, we were 23 23 very focused on the settlement with the DEA and the Q. Ms. Polster? 24 provisions that our legal teams had outlined that we 2.4 A. Yes. Page 59 Page 61 And when you say "direction," what do you 1 1 needed to implement. That was one of the critical 2 mean? 2 focuses at that time. 3 3 A. We would meet in meetings with our -- my Q. And the -- in the midst of the 4 peers or our team members and discuss issues and she 4 investigations by the DEA, what are you referring to? 5 would provide direction as to programs we should work 5 A. The -- when I was there, it was the 6 6 settlement agreement that we had signed and so we 7 7 received a laundry list of -- of tasks and programs Q. Did anybody ever tell you that there had 8 8 been ongoing congressional investigations into the and changes that we were working to implement. 9 opiate crisis almost 13 years by the time you started 9 Q. And that was in -- the agreement was 10 in 2013? 10 signed. 11 A. No. 11 Do you have a recollection of when the 12 Q. Did anybody tell you that there was year 12 agreement was signed? 13 13 upon year upon year increase in the amount of opiates A. Shortly after I started. dispensed across the country? 14 14 Q. Like in June of 2013? 15 A. I knew that. I don't know that anyone at 15 A. That sounds right. 16 Q. Were -- did anyone alert you or notify you 16 work told me that. 17 17 from your date in February of '13 until the date the Q. Did anyone ever as part of your training agreement was signed about the ongoing investigations? 18 advise you that the amount of deaths had increased, 18 19 19 A. We were in discussions about the terms of overdose deaths related to Schedule II and 20 Schedule III opiates had increased exponentially 20 the settlement and what that might include. Some of beginning in late '90s, early 2000s? 21 the things that the government had already outlined 21 22 MR. HILL: Objection to the form. 22 that we had committed to. BY THE WITNESS: 23 23 Q. Including the closing of six Walgreens' A. I don't recall. 24 stores in Florida, correct? 24

	Page 62		Page 64
1	MR. HILL: Objection to the form.	1	Q. And orders of unusual frequency?
2	BY THE WITNESS:	2	A. Correct.
3	A. I don't know if I knew that at that time.	3	Q. Do you have an understanding in February
4	BY MR. MOUGEY:	4	of 2013 what Walgreens had been doing to perform due
5	Q. Including these the requirement that	5	diligence once an order had been identified as
6	six Walgreens' pharmacies were no longer dispensing	6	suspicious?
7	Schedule II and Schedule III narcotics?	7	MR. HILL: Objection to the form.
8	A. That was included in the eventual	8	BY THE WITNESS:
9	settlement, but I don't know if I knew that that was a	9	A. As of the implementation of the CSOM or
10	condition at that time.	10	before that?
11	Q. Were you a are you aware that there was	11	BY MR. MOUGEY:
12	a a distribution center in Jupiter, Florida,	12	Q. Let's start with that.
13	correct?	13	From October of 2012 until February of '13
14	A. I once I was in this role, yes.	14	when you started at pharmaceutical integrity, do you
15	Q. As of February of 2013, were were you	15	have an understanding of what Walgreens was doing to
16	aware that Jupiter distribution center was part	16	perform due diligence on suspicious orders?
17	of the investigation?	17	A. I believe so, yes.
18	A. I knew that they were no longer dispensing	18	Q. And what was that understanding?
19	and that there had been an order to show cause.	19	A. So, if the we established a a
20	Q. So let's go back to Branton I'm	20	ceiling and tolerance for each product at each
21	sorry Bratton 2.	21	location and if an order was attempted to be placed by
22	•	22	a store that exceeded that, we would then investigate
23	You have a general understanding that Walgreens is charged with implementing a system	23	
24		24	why that order was placed, and if it was deemed to be
24	designed to identify suspicious orders, correct?	24	suspicious, we would report it to the DEA. Also, if
	Page 63		Page 65
1	A. General	1	the store did not reply, we would report it to the
1 2		1 2	
	A. General		the store did not reply, we would report it to the DEA. Q. Do you have an understanding where that
2	A. General MR. HILL: Object to the form.	2	the store did not reply, we would report it to the DEA. Q. Do you have an understanding where that due diligence, beginning in October of '12 on, was
2 3	A. General MR. HILL: Object to the form. BY THE WITNESS:	2	the store did not reply, we would report it to the DEA. Q. Do you have an understanding where that
2 3 4	A. General MR. HILL: Object to the form. BY THE WITNESS: A. Generally, yes.	2 3 4	the store did not reply, we would report it to the DEA. Q. Do you have an understanding where that due diligence, beginning in October of '12 on, was
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	Page 66		Page 68
1	know where else we would have documented it. But that	1	Q. And do you know when Eric Stahmann
2	doesn't necessarily mean it didn't occur.	2	started?
3	BY MR. MOUGEY:	3	A. I don't. I it was a few months, I
4	Q. Do you have a general understanding of the	4	think, before me.
5	suspicious order monitoring policies in place at	5	Q. A month or two before you?
6	Walgreens prior to the CSOM in October of 2012?	6	A. I don't know the exact timeframe. I know
7	A. Not really.	7	it was shortly before I did. In that
8	Q. Not really or or none?	8	Q. Did Ms go ahead.
9	MR. HILL: Objection to form, asked and	9	A. In that role.
10	answered.	10	Q. Was Ms. Daugherty part of that role of
11	BY THE WITNESS:	11	developing and the system to identify suspicious
12	A. Very little understanding prior to the	12	orders?
13	2012.	13	A. I don't know. I think she may have
14	BY MR. MOUGEY:	14	started after me, but I don't I don't know for
15	Q. Ex explain to me what you understood	15	sure.
16	was in place prior to the CSOM policy in October	16	Q. How well do you know Eric Stahmann?
17	of 2012?	17	A. I mean, I've worked with him for some
18	A. I know that there were reports that were	18	number of years. I know him, you know, a medium
19	generated and sent. I don't know the criteria for how	19	amount, I guess, I don't know.
20	those were produced. I know that DC staff would look	20	Q. There's four managers in pharmaceutical
21	at orders, but I don't know what order criteria they	21	integrity, correct?
22	used to to look at those orders.	22	A. Well, there are three managers and then
23	Q. When you say orders were generated and	23	our our boss, so
24	sent, sent to whom?	24	Q. And at inception in early '13, there were
	·		1 7 7
	Page 67 l		Page 69
1	Page 67	1	Page 69
1 2	A. I believe DEA field offices.	1	four, correct?
2	A. I believe DEA field offices.Q. But you are not sure?	2	four, correct? A. Ah, correct, yes, I take that back.
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